REMARKS

Claims 14-18, 20-21 and 23-27 are pending in the application. Claims 14 and 21 are independent, and each has been amended herein. Independent Claim 14 has been amended to further define over the cited art, and to include the limitations of now-canceled Claim 19 and independent Claim 21 has been amended to further define over the cited art, and to include the limitations of now-canceled Claim 22. Dependent Claim 24 has been amended to correct dependency based upon the cancelation of Claim 22 and Claims 17 and 20 have been amended to correct antecedent issues raised by the claim amendments made in light of the claim objections noted below.

Claims 14 and 21 were objected to for the formalities noted on page 2 of the Action. The claim amendments made herein are believed to address the issues raised, and therefore withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-15 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by newly-cited US Patent 5,559,808 (Kostreski et al.); Claims 16 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kostreski in view of newly-cited US Patent 6,301,248 (Jung et al.); Claims 17-18 and 26-27 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kostreski as applied to Claims 14-15 and 21-23 and further in view of US 5,555,097 (Joung et al.); and Claims 19-20 and 24 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kostreski as applied to Claims 14-15 and 21-23 and further in view of US 5,999,690 (Ro et al.) and US Patent 4,712,175 (Torri et al.). In view of the foregoing claim amendments and the following comments, each of these rejections is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal are accordingly requested.

Independent Claim 14, as amended herein, is directed to a method for processing a plurality of signals including - receiving a plurality of signals, having a plurality of different formats, *at a single source interface*, wherein at least a first signal, a second signal and a third signal are received at said single source interface, routing the first signal, the second signal and the third signal from the single source interface to one or more selected devices, converting the first signal, routed from the single source interface, the first signal being an analog signal, to a desired format, converting the second signal, routed from the single source interface, the second

signal being a digital signal, to the desired format, demultiplexing the third signal in the desired format, the third signal having an audio component and a video component; packetizing the first, second and third signals, and multiplexing the first, second and third signals into a single transport stream.

Independent Claim 21, as amended herein, is directed to an apparatus for processing a plurality of signals, including *a single source interface having one or more input terminals to receive the plurality of signals having a plurality of different formats, wherein at least a first signal, a second signal and a third signal are received at said single source interface,* a first converter to convert the first signal (an analog signal) among the plurality of signals to a desired format, a second converter to convert the second signal (a digital signal) among the plurality of signals to the desired format, a demultiplexer to demultiplex the third signal in the desired format among the plurality of signals, the third signal having an audio component and a video component, a packetizer coupled to the demultiplexer, and the first and second converters, the packetizer to packetize the first, second and third signals; and a formatter coupled to the packetizer, the formatter to multiplex the first, second and third signals into a single transport stream.

Applicants recognized that while a large number of analog and digital signals are available for home use, not all signals are standardized in a common format, they are transmitted with different formats, requiring different types of receivers or devices (see page 1, lines 10-11 and 26-31). As explained at least at page 5, lines 2-4 and 20-33 of Applicant's specification as filed, "*source interface 105 accepts signals from multiple sources*, e.g., analog video signals…digital video signals…[r]egardless of the signal source, the signals *input to source interface 105* have identifiers that allow source interface 105 to select and route specific signals to desired destinations", and "signals of different formats from different sources can be simultaneously recorded and accessed for subsequent use". By inputting all signals to a single source interface, and routing selected signals to *appropriate devices for processing*, the proposed method/apparatus provides a solution to the problems noted.

Kostreski is directed to "simulcasting digital video programs" –and attempts to address problems raised by signal blockage and "multi-path reflections" (col. 4, lines 28-39). Kostreski does not teach or suggest (at least) a method or apparatus in which "***digital signals*** *in a format different than the desired format* are first ***converted to the desired format*** by a converter before being transmitted to the buffer (see e.g., Applicants' specification page 3, lines 24-27). The Action directs Applicants to "column 13, lines 57-63 and column 14, lines 1-10" of Kostreski as support for teaching this element. However, these sections of Kostreski cited in the Action describe only converting analog information into compressed digital data form. Should this rejection be maintained, further clarification as to the specific support and teaching of this element in Kostreski is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Kostreski also fails to teach or suggest "*demultiplexing* the third signal *in the desired format*, having an audio component and a video component". The Action directs Applicants to "column 14, lines 43-49; column 15, lines 25-35" of Kostreski for support of this element – however the first section cited, column 14, lines 43-49, describes only how the "MPEG II standard provides a standardized format for packetizing compressed audio and video information and for transporting other data", and the second section cited, column 15, lines 25-35, describes only how the MPEG multiplexer 12 "may receive digitized and compressed (MPEG) video from other sources 11'". These sections/statements do not teach or suggest a method/apparatus, as claimed by Applicants, in which a "third signal", that is *in the desired format*, is "demultiplexed" prior to the steps of packetizing "the first, second and third signals", and "multiplexing the first, second and third signals into a single transport stream".

Finally, each of the independent claims recites a *single source interface* – Kostreski fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of this element.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent Claims 14 and 21, as amended herein, is patentable over any combination of the teachings of Kostreski. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection are accordingly requested.

Since the limitations of dependent Claim 19 were added to independent Claim 14, as amended herein, Applicants shall address the rejection of Claim 19 (based upon Kostreski, Ro and Torri). Specifically, the step of "routing the first signal, the second signal and the third signal from the single source interface to one or more selected devices" has been added to Claim 14.

The Office Action (pages 5-6) states that (with regard to dependent Claim 20), "Ro disclose a selector to select a signal from among the plurality of signals (Fig. 1)" and that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the selector of Ro "into the method disclosed by Kostreski *in order to share processing resources for economic reasons*". Applicants submit that even if Ro discloses a "selector", there would be no motivation to incorporate such selector into the communication system of Kostreski, when Kostreski fails to teach or even suggest a method/system in which "***digital signals*** *in a format different than the desired format* are first ***converted to the desired format*** by a converter before being transmitted to the buffer" – and – "*demultiplexing* a signal *in the desired format*, having an audio component and a video component".

With regard to the recitation in dependent Claim 20 of a "selector to select the first signal, the second signal and the third signal from among the plurality of signals", the Action takes the position that "Torri discloses a selector comprising three independent selectors to provide three independent outputs" and that it would be obvious to incorporate such teachings into the method of Kostreski/Ro "*so that signal inputs can be grouped into different categories depending on format and nature of the signals in order to share processing resources more efficiently*". Again, since Kostreski fails to even suggest a method/system in which "***digital signals*** *in a format different than the desired format* are first ***converted to the desired format*** by a converter before being transmitted to the buffer" – and – "*demultiplexing* a signal *in the desired format*, having an audio component and a video component" –the 'motivation' suggested in the Action does not apply. Finally, dependent Claim 20 has been amended to recite a *single* selector – further defining over the teachings of Torri.

Dependent Claims 15-18, 20 and 23-27 are believed to be clearly patentable for all of the reasons indicated above with respect to Claims 14 and 21, one or the other from which they depend, and even further define over the cited references by reciting additional distinguishing limitations.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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